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PEOPLE, RULES, AND ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEM RESOURCES (PROSPER)

FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT (Final)
1 April - 30 June 2013



July 2013

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Principal contacts:

Steve Reid, Chief of Party, Tetra Tech ARD, Monrovia, Liberia, steve.reid@tetrattech.com
Dimitri Obolensky, Project Manager, Tetra Tech, Burlington, Vermont, dimitri.obolensky@tetrattech.com

Implemented by:

Tetra Tech
P.O. Box 1397
Burlington, VT 05402
Tel: 802-658-3890

Tetra Tech PROSPER Program
19th Street & Payne Avenue
Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

Front Cover Photo: Cultural Troup in Barcoline Village
Front Cover photo credit: Eugene Gibson, Head of Buchanan Field Office

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Contents

Acronyms.....	ii
Introduction	1
Management Activities.....	4
Cross-cutting Technical Activities.....	6
Component Work Plans	9
COMPONENT 1: EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, NRM, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE	9
COMPONENT 2: IMPROVED COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT LEADING TO MORE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND REDUCED THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY IN TARGET AREAS	12
COMPONENT 3: ENHANCED COMMUNITY-BASED LIVELIHOODS DERIVED FROM SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED AND AGRICULTURE-BASED ENTERPRISES IN TARGET AREAS	16
Appendices	20
APPENDIX 1: PROSPER STAFF LIST	21
APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED	23
APPENDIX 3: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE - QUARTER 3, FY-13	24
APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER - APRIL TO JUNE 2013	28
APPENDIX 5: SUCCESS STORIES	31

ACRONYMS

AML	Arcelor Mittal Liberia
APM	Advanced Participation Methods
ASNAPP	Agribusiness in Sustainable African Plant Products
AYP	Advancing Youth Program
BCC	Behavior Change and Communications
BOTPAL	Botanical Products Association of Liberia
CA	Community Assembly
CDWG	Curriculum Development Working Group
CFDC	Community Forestry Development Committee
CFMA	Community Forest Management Agreement
CFO	County Forestry Officer
CI	Conservation International
CJPS	Center for Justice and Peace Studies
CM	Community Mobilizers
COA	Communications Outreach Advisor
CRL	Community Rights Law
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
dTS	Development and Training Services
EMMP	Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan
ENNR	East Nimba Nature Reserve
ETD	Environmental Threshold Decision
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FED	Food and Enterprise Development Project
FEWG	Forestry Education Working Group
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FTI	Forestry Training Institute
GIO	Gender Integration Officer
GoL	Government of Liberia
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IRD	International Relief and Development
LA	Livelihoods Advisor
L/LEDA	Leader, Livelihoods and Enterprise Development Activities
L/EDOA	Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities
LFSP	Liberia Forest Support Program
L-MEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LRCFP	Land Rights and Community Forestry Program

LTTP	Liberia Teacher Training Program
MES	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
MoE	Ministry of Education
NAEAL	National Adult Education Association of Liberia
NBST	National Benefit Sharing Trust
NNBSG	Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Group
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
ODA	Organizational Development Specialist
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PROSPER	People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources
PUP	Private Use Permit
SCFA	Senior Community Forestry Advisor
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

To build on previous investments in the forestry and agricultural sectors, particularly the Land Rights and Community Forestry Program (2007-2011) and the Liberia Forestry Support Program (2011-2012), USAID contracted Tetra Tech ARD in May 2012 to implement a new, five-year program (2012-2017) entitled People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER). The overall goal of the program is to introduce, operationalize, and refine appropriate models for community management of forest resources for local self-governance and enterprise development in targeted areas of the country. The three primary objectives of the program are:

- 1) Expand educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance;
- 2) Improve community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in target areas;
- 3) Enhance community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest-based and agriculture-based enterprises in target areas.

This fourth quarterly report presents the activities undertaken and results obtained during the third quarter of fiscal year 2013 (FY13) which covers April 1 through June 30, 2013. Individual monthly progress reports were also prepared for USAID.

During the reporting period, PROSPER marked the one-year anniversary (June 18-19, 2012) of the holding of the program's Inception Workshop. The 59 events organized by the program during the third quarter of FY13, involving over 3,933 participants (see Appendix 4), provide one measure of the scale and scope of the work PROSPER is engaged in 12 months into implementation. As the component summaries (pp. 8-18) make clear, PROSPER made good progress during the quarter in implementing its annual work plan and in achieving performance targets. The dominant activity of the quarter was the belated launching and rollout of the first annual Outreach Campaign aimed at strengthening the capacity of key Liberian institutions to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance. The first campaign was very much a joint effort of PROSPER staff and dedicated members of the Community Forestry Working Group representing the FDA and CSOs active on forest policy matters. National, county, district, and community authorities who spoke at the well-attended outreach campaign launching ceremonies organized in Tappita, Sanniquellie, and Buchanan, reaffirmed the pertinence of community forestry and strongly endorsed the theme chosen for the first campaign (increased awareness of the laws and regulations that give communities rights to use and manage their forests).

The outreach campaign reinforced ongoing work conducted under Component 2 to lay the foundation in each of PROSPER's 7 new sites for establishment of their community forests in FY 2014. This included meetings to familiarize community members with requirements and procedures for demarcating proposed community forest areas per the Community Rights Law (CRL) and training in conflict management and leadership. Although a moratorium on new community forest management agreements remains in effect, local government and community representatives from PROSPER's 7 new sites traveled to Monrovia in May to deliver their applications to the FDA for forest community status. The delegations were received by the Managing Director of the FDA who made a personal pledge to prioritize the review and approval

of the applications developed in full compliance with the spirit and letter of the CRL. As in previous quarters, PROSPER contributed to ongoing land and forestry policy discussions at the national level through the preparation of briefing notes and presentations to USAID, the US Embassy, the FDA and Land Commission that highlighted, in particular, the difficulties forest communities face in defending their rights and ensuring equitable benefits in their dealings with logging companies and mining and agricultural concessionaires.

While planned activities under the Livelihoods Component, including farmer field schools (FFS) and technical support for cassava and oil palm processing groups, moved ahead during the quarter, consultations within the PROSPER team and between PROSPER and USAID led to a decision to put more emphasis on the development of tree crop-based enterprises in Year 2. The shift in focus is justified in part by the comparative advantage that the Food and Enterprise Development (FED) program has to support the development of agricultural enterprises in the zones where PROSPER and FED both work. In June a home office expert of PROSPER livelihoods subcontractor, ACDI-VOCA, provided technical assistance to the program in assessing opportunities and approaches for supporting tree crop development in PROSPER's work areas.

Deliverables Summary:

The following *new* contract deliverables were due during the third quarter of FY13 (Apr. - Jun. 2013):

- Tested environmental curriculum materials (#3)
- Tested public outreach and awareness approaches (#5)
- Community Forestry curriculum elements identified and teaching training needs assessment performed (#7)
- Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater and video products developed to educate the Liberian public on community forestry, LTPR and the environment (#11)
- Three policy briefs (#29)

Three deliverables originally due (by contract) in the third quarter of FY13 were approved (in PROSPER's 2013 Annual Work Plan) for submission in the fourth quarter of FY13. They are:

- Community Forest Management Handbook (#12)
- Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook (#13)
- Education Review Workshop (#27)

One of the above-listed contract deliverables was submitted ahead of schedule (see FY13 Q2 Report):

- Community Forestry curriculum elements identified and teaching training needs assessment performed (#7)

The following deliverables were implemented at the field level but will be formally submitted to USAID in Quarter 4 of FY2013:

- Tested public outreach and awareness approaches (#5)
- Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater and video products developed to educate the Liberian public on community forestry, LTPR and the environment (#11)

One contract deliverable due in the third quarter of FY13 will be completed in the first quarter of FY14:

- Tested environmental curriculum materials (#3)

One contract deliverable due in the first quarter of FY13 was submitted for USAID review and approval:

- Ethno-botanical survey and Value chain study (#2)

One contract deliverable due in the first quarter of FY13 was implemented in the current reporting period:

- First outreach campaign launched to improve public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues (#28)

One contract deliverable due in the first quarter of FY13 was re-submitted for USAID review and approval:

- Biodiversity assessments completed for new sites (#24)

One contract deliverable due in the first quarter of FY13 underwent substantial development or revision during the third quarter of FY13 but remains outstanding:

- Sector surveys and analyses for selected forestry and agricultural value chains (#2)

Outstanding contract deliverables to be completed in the fourth quarter of FY13:

- Three policy briefs (#29)
- Report on public outreach and awareness building approaches (#5)
- Submission of outreach and awareness materials (#11)

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Staffing:

One staffing change was made during the quarter. On May 20, Eugene Gibson joined the PROSPER team as Forestry Officer/Head of Buchanan Field Office. Mr. Gibson, who had participated in the implementation of the LRCFP and LFSP projects as an employee of AGRHA, replaced Joseph Taylor whose contract was terminated on April 30. Mr. Gibson completed a three-day technical and administrative orientation at the Monrovia office before assuming the reins in Buchanan.

Currently, PROSPER fields a total of 68 staff, broken out as follows:

Location	Tetra Tech ARD			Subcontractors (Technical Staff)				Total
				ACDI/VOCA	AGRHA	CJPS	NAEAL	
	Technical	Admin/Fin	Driver/Support					
Monrovia	8	5	5	2	1	1	1	23
Buchanan	1	1	1		3	3	3	12
Sanniquellie	1	1	1		4	4	4	15
Tappita	1	1	1		5	5	5	18
TOTAL	11	8	8	2	13	13	13	68

Subcontract Administration:

National subcontractors: PROSPER's three national subcontractors (CJPS, AGRHA, and NAEAL) were fully deployed in the program's 3 field offices and 10 sites from April to June. Two subcontractor field staff – Agnes Amos of CJPS, and Daniel Quee of AGRHA, had extended absences due to injuries suffered in vehicle accidents. CJPS transferred its Ganta-based Project Coordinator (Morris Turay) to fill in for Ms. Amos as Organizational Development Officer for Buchanan during her recuperation.

On June 1, Tetra Tech ARD and CJPS signed a contract modification enabling CJPS to hire full-time office cleaners/attendants at all four PROSPER office locations. The modification was undertaken to provide more secure employment status to the four maintenance personnel. In the same modification, Tetra Tech ARD added two days per month of management and administrative time to support CJPS staff in PROSPER's three field offices.

On June 27, Tetra Tech ARD verbally notified AGRHA that based on the decision taken to reorient PROSPER's Livelihoods Component away from agricultural crops and toward tree crops in FY14, Tetra Tech would be phasing out AGRHA subcontract. AGRHA was asked to maintain field personnel in northern Nimba and in Grand Bassa through November 2013 to ensure full implementation of ongoing farmer field school activities, but to withdraw its five staff members based in southern Nimba (Tappita District) by August 15.

International subcontractors: In addition to ACDI VOCA which leads PROSPER's Livelihoods Component, PROSPER has four international subcontractors: dTS Inc., Rutgers University, FFI, and ASNAPP which provide short-term technical assistance in their respective areas of expertise to support PROSPER work plan implementation. All four were active during the quarter (see Component Work Plans for details). ASNAPP conducted a mission to Liberia (April) to carry out a survey/evaluation of the

effectiveness of the trainings on Griffonia harvesting/handling practices that PROSPER organized in November 2012 for collectors and CFMB members.

ACDI VOCA Project Director, Brandie Maxwell, traveled to Liberia from June 13 to July 3 to provide technical support for the review of Year-1 Livelihood Component results and identification and design of Year-2 Livelihood strategies and activities. The inputs on Component 3 were integrated into the larger scope of work revision currently being prepared by PROSPER at USAID's request

Procurement:

PROSPER undertook a number of significant procurements in the third quarter of FY13 in support of operations and activity implementation. The most important are noted below by category.

Contracts for services: In April, as part of the preparation of the annual outreach campaign "Making Community Forestry Rights Real", PROSPER undertook a competitive bidding process that resulted in the award of firm fixed price subcontracts to Graphic World Printers (brochures, booklets, banners, tee-shirts, laminated posters, etc.) and Liberia Crusaders for Peace (drama skits, campaign jingle, cultural performances, training of local drama troupes, etc.) in the amounts of \$16.1 and \$35.4 thousand, respectively. In May, Tetra Tech signed a fixed price subcontract with the Inland Construction Company in the amount of \$3,761 to build a bamboo reed perimeter fence for PROSPER's Tappita office.

Non-expendable equipment purchases: The two largest expenditures involved the acquisition of a Toyota Land Cruiser, delivered June 14 (cost: \$45,918), and four Honda XR-125 road bikes for FDA field collaborators, delivered June 21 (cost: \$14,160). All the vehicles were registered, insured, fixed with mud-grip tires, and were fully operational at the end of the quarter. Three laptop computers were procured in the United States for PROSPER by Tetra Tech ARD's home office in June (cost: \$3,415), and are to be delivered to Monrovia in the next quarter.

Expendable equipment purchases: Major *expendable* equipment items procured by the program during the quarter included: 39 sets of front and rear mud-grip motorcycle tires and inner tubes for PROSPER's motorcycles (cost: \$10,179); 4 sets of mud tires for PROSPER's 4WD vehicles (cost: \$5,910); tools for farmer field school (cost: \$4,093).

Field Offices:

PROSPER 'inherited' a fully-function field office in Sanniquellie to support program activities in northern Nimba County, and established new field offices in the first quarter of FY13 in Tappita and Buchanan to support operations in southern Nimba and Grand Bassa respectively. A variety of renovations have been required to make the new offices functional.

During the third quarter of FY13 PROSPER completed major renovations on the Tappita field office. These included the replacement of a septic tank on the main office building, rehabilitation of fuel tanks and fuel storage building, refurbishing of floors and plumbing, and construction of a bamboo reed fence around the 150 x 275 foot compound.

In Buchanan, one renovation work – installation of office partitions – was completed, and another – construction of a generator house – was launched during the third quarter of FY13. In June, growing concerns about security in Buchanan led PROSPER to identify qualified local reed fence builders in anticipation of a July procurement.

CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

Performance Monitoring:

As detailed in Appendix 3 (Performance Indicator Tracking Table) PROSPER had targets for 10 different indicators in Quarter 3 – two in Component 1, four in Component 2, and four in Component 3. The program exceeded targets for five of those indicators (1.4.1, 1.4.2, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, and 3.1). Targets were met for three indicators (2.1.3, 3.2.1, and 3.2.2). Quarterly targets were not achieved for two indicators (2.4.1 and 3.3.1).

It should also be noted for performance indicator 3.1 (see notes in table) that this number represents both this quarter and the previous quarter's data. This is reported because of the late collection of data for this indicator in the previous quarter. In the previous quarter, it was reported that zero people had received increased benefits because the data had not yet been collected. This quarterly report was finalized by the USAID COR and data entered into LMEP's PIDS system before this number could be updated. Subsequently, data was gathered from the field and 200 people were found to have increased economic benefits. This number was examined by LMEP's DQA assessment team in June 2013 and found to be reliable. However, this update was not entered into the PIDS system because, following USAID protocol, the database had been closed for revision following the COR approval of the Quarterly Report. In order to capture this number, we are including the 200 from the previous quarter in this report in order to ensure that these numbers are captured within the PIDS system.

In addition to ongoing gathering and verification of program performance data in coordination with Monrovia and field-based staff, PROSPER's two-person Monitoring and Evaluation Unit devoted considerable effort in the third quarter of FY13 to three special activities:

- 1) In April the M&E Unit designed, prepared, and executed a survey to assess the degree of adoption of improved agricultural practices and techniques by participants in farmer field schools (FFS) under LRCFP and LFSP. Two teams, each comprised of one PROSPER M&E expert, one AGRHA staff member, and an agricultural expert from CARI, conducted the survey in northern Nimba from April 22-26. The survey covered 8 communities and 75 respondents, representing 30% of the farmers trained. 45 persons representing 60% of the respondents reported that were applying 3-5 practices and skills learned in FFS while 30 respondents representing 40% of farmers surveyed reported that they were applying 1-2 techniques or skills. The most widely applied techniques and practices involved planting in rows, spacing, and post-harvest management. Survey results informed ongoing consultations between Tetra Tech ARD and USAID/Liberia concerning strategies for improving livelihoods in ways that address the drivers of deforestation.
- 2) In May and June, PROSPER's M&E Unit prepared and participated in the data quality assessment (DQA) led by the Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program (L-MEP) team. Following a preliminary work session with L-MEP at the PROSPER office that included a review of program indicators and data collection systems and tools, and a physical inspection of the program's hard copy and electronic M&E files, Thomas Kanneh of L-MEP and Darlington Vangehn and Edward Roberts of PROSPER carried out a five-day schedule of field visits. The field phase of the DQA (June 16-23) entailed meetings with PROSPER staff and implementing partners in the Buchanan and Sanniquellie

field offices, as well as site visits and interviews with PROSPER partner communities in District IV (Grand Bassa) and in Gba, Zor, and Seyhi (northern Nimba). L-MEP's report on the results of the DQA is anticipated in July of the next quarter.

- 3) In response to a recommendation by L-MEP that PROSPER set up and maintain files at each of the three field offices (in addition to its central files in Monrovia) concerning all locally-collected performance data, PROSPER's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer travelled to Buchanan, Tappita, and Sanniquellie from June 25 to July 3 to establish hard copy files and to provide training to the Forestry Officer/Heads of Office on their maintenance.

Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan

USAID's approval of the EMMP submitted in October 2012 remained on hold in the third quarter of FY13 pending the result of ongoing efforts to address USAID concerns about its "implementability. To that end, Tetra Tech ARD developed and submitted in April a one-page "implementation cheat sheet" that summarizes for PROSPER staff the key mitigation measures required by category of program activity.

In the third quarter of FY13, PROSPER continued to implement various elements of the draft EMMP. The document details mitigation measures and monitoring protocols for each planned activity that is associated with a "condition" in the Initial Environmental Examination. Particular attention is accorded to activities that involve development of natural resource management enterprises. In November 2012, in application of the EMMP Compliance Statement concerning fruit and nut-based NTFP's, PROSPER and subcontractor ASNAPP organized a training of trainers (TOT) for BOTPAL and CFMB members on *sustainable harvesting techniques for Griffonia collection* and best practices of post-harvest handling of the seeds. Following the TOT, 650 residents of northern Nimba were trained on both subjects in anticipation of the Dec. 2012-Mar. 2013 Griffonia campaign. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of those November trainings, two ASNAPP staff members were mobilized to Liberia in April to conduct a survey which examined the following questions (among others):

- Are collectors aware what sustainable Griffonia harvesting methods are?
- Do the trained collectors apply these methods?
- How do the collectors "harvest" the Griffonia (cutting the pods of the vine or picking up dried seeds from the forest floor)?
- Can collectors explain why sustainable harvesting (not cutting and pulling down the vines) is important?

The survey was undertaken in 10 communities in northern Nimba: Zorgowee, Zortapa, ZorLehpula, Lorlay, Manbor, Geanplay, Yournlay, Larpea 2, Zeanlay and Duoplay. At each site six collectors and agents were interviewed representing at least 10% of trainees. Members of BOTPAL were also interviewed prior to the sessions with the communities. With the exception of permit acquisition, most collectors complied with the sustainable practices they acquired during the November training sessions. Over 80% of respondents indicated they were trained on good collection practices (GCP) prior to the collection/ purchasing season with over 90% demonstrating an appreciable level of understanding on the importance of GCP. A large proportion of the respondents demonstrated an appreciable level of understanding on the importance of sustainable harvesting practices.

The EMMP Compliance Statement regarding fruit and nut-based NTFP's identifies *the lack of adequate information on species and demand* as a threat. In the fourth quarter of FY 13, PROSPER will mobilize ASNAPP and Rutgers to establish a method/protocol to estimate the total volume of NTFP produced annually by a forest, and how much of that "production" can be harvested without causing the plant population and future harvests to decline. This is important to know from a community forest management perspective and for inclusion in a community forest management plan, and will provide the basis for a reason-based permit issuing policy.

Gender Integration:

PROSPER continues to implement the Gender Integration Plan under the leadership of the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) with support from dTS Gender Consultant, Smita Malpani. To determine the progress made toward the goals set out in the gender Integration Plan, the GIO conducted an internal assessment of the progress made at the component level toward the goals set out in plan which will be used to support future implementation. The findings were quite positive with many of the recommendations acted upon by technical staff in the development and delivery of materials and trainings. This progress report will be submitted to USAID in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2013.

COMPONENT WORK PLANS

Component 1 activities focused on two major activities: preparation and implementation of the “Make Community Forestry Rights Real” campaign; and the development of primary school lesson plans. Both of these activities were undertaken in close collaboration with PROSPER CSO and government partners. These activities were characterized by their intensity which included accelerated schedules, weekend workshops and meetings in order to overcome delays resulting from the change of key personnel earlier in the year, and the need to conduct activities before the onset of the rainy season and close of the school year.

COMPONENT 1: EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, NRM, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Activity 1.1: Collaboratively support the development and/or modification of primary formal and non-formal school curricula to increase knowledge and understanding related to natural resources, their management, and the related rights and responsibilities of government and citizens

Key Accomplishments: Six teachers from Monrovia-area schools were selected for their skills and experience in curriculum development following interviews conducted by a Joint PROSPER-MOE team in the previous quarter. During this reporting period, the primary task of these Education Volunteers was to draft lesson plans and materials that will be integrated into the official MOE primary school curriculum with guidance from PROSPER and MoE members of the Curriculum Development Working Group (CDWG). The volunteers met on a weekly basis and held two weekend workshops to finalize 72 lesson plans representing 3 plans per subject for Grades 1 through 6. In late June, these lesson plans were piloted in schools in PROSPER sites which had been pre-identified earlier in the quarter by a joint PROSPER-MOE mission. The pilot schools were selected following an evaluation that took into consideration the following criteria: staffing strength, qualifications, teacher-availability, willingness to use structured materials for teaching (curriculum, lesson plans); availability of school structure, basic furniture for sitting and writing; availability of students; and mix of urban and rural schools. Results from the pilot testing will be used to revise the lesson plans in the next quarter. The lesson plans will also be further strengthened through the development of teaching aids and resources that will be identified by PROSPER subcontractor, Rutgers University.



Figure 1: A teacher in northern Nimba presents a lesson plan covering the parts of a plant.

Activity 1.2: Collaboratively support the development of outreach campaigns to increase public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Outreach and awareness materials developed for National Outreach Campaign, “Make Community Forest Rights Real” with PROSPER partners

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: Public Outreach and awareness building approaches field tested with relevant stakeholders (Deliverable 5); report will be forthcoming following a workshop in the next quarter (FY1, Q4)
Series of outreach products developed to educate the Liberian public in CF, LTPR and environmental awareness (Deliverable 11)
The National Outreach Campaign (Deliverable 28) was launched after a 7-month delay

Key Accomplishments:

Activities supporting the launching and rolling out the first annual Outreach campaign focused on the theme, “Make Community Forestry Rights Real”, dominated PROSPER activities during the reporting period. The Community Forestry Working Group (CFWG) remained active in the development of materials leading up to the launch. The campaign was launched officially in Nimba County from Tappita Town (May 24) where the Managing Director of the FDA delivered the opening keynote address. Launches in Sanniquellie and Buchanan on May 29 and June 8 followed suit with the Deputy Director of the FDA and the Chairman of the Land Commission delivering the keynote addresses that highlighted the need for communities, government and civil societies to work together to implement the Community Rights Law (CRL). This message is particularly relevant to Liberia today where the demand for access to forest resources has led to a general disregard for the rule of law as evidenced by the recent scandal surrounding Private Use Permits. In all three locations, the launching ceremonies – attended by 125-200 participants – brought together the full spectrum of stakeholders concerned by the use and management of forest lands including county, district, and clan authorities, government technical services, and community representatives. The launching of the campaign was amplified in all three zones by local radio stations which PROSPER contracted to prepare an interactive pre-launch informational broadcast, to cover the ceremonies, and to do a 30-minute feature program on the outreach campaign, including interviews with key participants.



Figure 2: Drummers perform as part of the Outreach Campaign.

The launch of the campaign was followed by a roll-out of activities in the major towns and villages of PROSPER’s ten sites that will continue into the next quarter. This includes music, cultural and drama performances, video, competitions to test skills knowledge related to community forestry, and the distribution of printed materials including copies of CRL and regulations, and t-shirts. Theatre troupes within the communities are also being mentored through this process by the professional theatre troupe contracted for the outreach campaign so that they can continue to spread the campaign messages throughout the PROSPER communities. Materials developed for the campaign will be made available to other members of the CFWG for use in other communities and will be compiled and delivered to USAID in the next quarter in fulfillment of Deliverable 11.

A review of the outreach and awareness approaches will be conducted in the next quarter and reported to USAID in fulfillment of Deliverable 5.

Activity 1.3: Develop a CF (Community Forestry) curriculum and support capacity development of FTI (Forestry Training Institute) staff to implement

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

FTI students participate in PROSPER activities

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: Community forestry curriculum elements identified and teachers training needs assessment and curriculum review (Deliverable 7; due FY1, Q3); these were delivered ahead of schedule; see previous quarterly report (FY1, Q2) for details.

Key Accomplishments:

A scope of work was developed and approved that will enable Dr. Ken Bauer to continue his support for the development of the FTI community forestry curriculum in the next quarter. Dr. Bauer will be supported by PROSPER Senior Community Forestry Advisor, Dr. Sam Koffa, and Education Advisors from FFI. During the reporting period, PROSPER met with FFI to discuss coordination mechanisms and to clarify the curriculum support that FFI will provide through the Darwin Initiative.

Eight students from FTI were hosted during the FTI break by PROSPER’s Sanniquellie and Tappita field offices. During the week, FTI students shadowed PROSPER community mobilizers at their work in the community, and observed ongoing workshops and trainings with communities, giving them an opportunity to experience community forestry implementation first-hand, and to interact with CF practitioners.

Activity 1.4: Work with civil society institutions and communities to support policy dialogue, develop communication and coordination strategies, and support effective stakeholder engagement in the development of NRM, land, and environmental policy

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Presentation made to Land Commission on land tenure and forestry issues
SoW prepared and approved for policy brief development
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

Key Accomplishments:

The DCOP made a presentation at the Land Commission that outlined the land tenure issues and conflicts observed and documented at PROSPER sites. These cases provided the basis for two briefing documents that were developed and submitted to USAID regarding the status of community forestry and the challenges to implementation. These briefs have been shared more broadly within the donor community by USAID through the Forestry Donor Working Group and to civil society organizations through presentations to the CFWG. These briefs also served as the basis for a presentation by the DCOP to the US Ambassador to Liberia. The presentation focused attention on failures of the Government of Liberia to implement legal reforms supported by US investments in the forestry and land sectors; the effect that this has on USAID investments and the investment environment in Liberia more generally; and the potential for conflict arising from these circumstances. Specific issues covered in the presentations and briefs included: the illegal award of concessions to Liberian politicians; Government of Liberia failure to comply with concession procurement requirements and other regulatory requirements; overlapping contracts for resource extraction and management issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy; failure of the FDA to comply with regulatory requirements for Community Forest Management Agreements; and mismanagement of funds earmarked for local communities affected by mining and forestry concession agreements.

During the period, USAID approved a SoW developed by PROSPER to contract an organization to provide a legal analysis of the community forestry framework with attention also to the new Land Rights Policy and the VPA agreement. Deliverables from this contract will be widely disseminated to inform the policy dialogue and legal reform that may be necessary to implement the new land policy.

Activity 1.5: Train communities receiving benefit sharing funds from commercial logging and key partners such as the National Benefit Sharing Trust Board, FDA, private sector actors, and others on more effective and environmentally sound development programs for their communities

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
There were no results to report during the quarter
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

No activities to report during the period.

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVED COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT LEADING TO MORE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND REDUCED THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY IN TARGET AREAS

Forestry policy issues continue to dominate both the headlines and the attention of PROSPER management. These issues were highlighted in reports from Global Witness on the failure of the GoL to follow through with recommendations of the Special Independent Investigative Panel and Executive Order 44 (see previous quarter report for details); an independent auditor’s report revealing all of FDA contracts to be legally noncompliant with forestry and procurement law; and discovery by PROSPER staff of high-level political involvement in land and forest use allocation and contract development. As a result, considerable time and resources were spent during the reporting period to developing briefing notes, presenting to stakeholders, and revising the PROSPER SoW to reflect the challenges to CF implementation resulting from corruption, lack of political will, failure to implement the CF legal framework, and limited capacity within the forestry sector.

Despite this, Component 2 field activities continued apace in support of the development of CFMA in the new PROSPER sites. Major activities included identification of potential boundary conflicts and conflict management training. At the established northern Nimba sites, implementation of management plans continued although activities were hampered by boundary issues in the Gba CF and conflicts between the communities and Arcelor Mittal Liberia. At the national level, PROSPER continued to work closely with the CFWG and the FDA to build capacity and understanding of community forestry and the legal framework thereof and developed a biomonitoring handbook for future community and FDA use.

Activity 2.1: Build community capacity for forest management

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Agreement reached on Gba Forest boundaries within the Gba Community
Community Forest boundaries maintained through brush clearing and preparation for tree crop planting
Applications for 7 CFMA submitted to FDA by PROSPER-supported communities
Several forest boundary conflicts identified for future management
Training provided to community leaders on conflict management and leadership skills
CFMB from Nimba County supported GPS training and land use planning for CFMB in Sinoe County
CFMB participated in county-level local government meetings
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period. The Community Forest Management Handbook (Deliverable 12) deliverable date was extended from May 2013 to September 2013 through the approval of the First Annual Work Plan.

Key Accomplishments:

Northern Nimba: The Gba Community Forest in northern Nimba is located entirely within the Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML) mining concession area and includes areas that AML intends to use to develop ore processing facilities during Phase II of AML operations starting in 2016. In addition, there are a number of settlements that are located within the forest. AML will resettle some of the families currently residing in areas that will be affected by their operations. However, other settlements will not be affected by AML’s resettlement plans. This situation has further complicated ongoing discussions within the Gba community. During the period, PROSPER facilitated meetings of community leaders to discuss whether or not the boundaries of the community forest need to be redefined, and what if any compensation should be given to communities voluntarily moving from the community forest. At the most recent meeting, community leaders decided to maintain the community forest boundaries while agreeing to support resettlement efforts for community members currently living and farming in the community forest at the end of this farming season but not affected by AML resettlement plans. Individuals with tree crops planted in the CF will maintain their ownership rights for three years, after which point, the ownership will be assumed by the community and managed by the CFMB. Individual towns will be responsible for identifying new farm sites outside of the CF for those being

resettled. This will affect several hundred households. PROSPER intends to follow this issue closely in the upcoming months.

Many of the participants in the discussions around the Gba Forest were also involved in Conflict Management and Leadership training that was piloted in April in northern Nimba. The value and need for this training was evident during a 3-day workshop in Ganta held by AML with facilitation provided by AML subcontractor, Conservation International (CI) in April. Members of the Gba and Zor CFMB and JCFMB participated in this meeting in which several controversial issues were discussed including management of the ENNR, community NTFP use and management rights within the ENNR, the role of the ENNR co-management committee, and resettlement requirements. At that meeting, participants agreed to suspend the terms of the co-management agreement of the ENNR for two years. However, it was agreed that the members of the co-management committee (FDA and representatives from the Gba, Zor and Seyhi communities) would work together to restructure the management of the ENNR, develop a management plan, and implement a conservation agreement. The ENNR is located within the larger northern Nimba landscape and its management will affect the management of other forests and lands within the larger landscape. Accordingly, PROSPER will continue to support community involvement in the ENNR planning and management, however, by agreement of all parties, FDA, AML (and their subcontractors) will assume leadership of that process. A follow-up meeting of the Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Meeting in Monrovia was held later in the quarter and attended by members of the Gba, Seyhi and Zor communities. An action plan was developed to further the planning agenda for the ENNR.

Members of the CFMB and JCFMB in northern Nimba, along with PROSPER staff, remained active as participants in the Nimba County Development Pillar meeting, and the County Development Steering Committee meeting. Both are organized by Nimba County Administration and provide opportunities to share information with local policy makers and leaders. In addition, CFMB and JCFMB representatives participated in the Nimba County Forestry Forum meeting. Nimba County includes several Forest Management Concession-affected communities, along with two CFMB that were formed with FDA support. This forum will become increasingly important for information exchange as forest management plans are further implemented in Nimba County.

Finally, in northern Nimba, members of the Gba and Zor communities re-cleared the boundary lines for the Zor and Bleih Community Forests and prepared for potential tree crop planting along that boundary.

Other PROSPER sites: In all of the new PROSPER sites, community mobilizers worked closely with drafting committees to prepare letters of application for Authorized Community Forestry status and to collect application fees. These letters and fees were submitted to the Managing Director of the FDA in early May.

In preparation for boundary demarcation and associated conflict management required by the CRL regulation, several workshops were held in the new PROSPER areas during the reporting period. This included a boundary demarcation workshop conducted under the leadership of FDA Liaison, Koko Dennis, in May. The workshop aimed to identify and map forest boundaries, adjacent communities, and potential areas of conflict that will need to be addressed intra-communally.

Boundary conflicts identified through this process were incorporated into a conflict management and leadership training workshop that followed and was facilitated by PROSPER's Organizational Development Advisor and Gender Integration Officer in Tappita and Grand Bassa sites. As part of that workshop, Peace Committees were formed to address ongoing and future conflicts.

PROSPER Community Mobilizers participated in the above activities and continued to work with local leaders within each of the new PROSPER sites to spread awareness about CRL forest governance structures, and to begin preparations for the election of Community Assembly members.

Other Community Forest Sites: Outside of the PROSPER sites, the program supported the Numopoh Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) in Sinoe County to conduct a public meeting to discuss the land use plans related to Golden Veroleum's concession in the community and a request from Delta Timber to

undertake logging in the community. Following this meeting, the Numopoh CFMB requested assistance from PROSPER to demarcate forest areas within their community in order to identify areas for protection and community management. These forests fall within the Golden Veroleum (GVL) concession area. The Numopoh community wants to ensure that these areas are protected from clearing for GVL's oil palm plantations. Gaye Dokpah, co-Chair of the JCFMB in northern Nimba, provided a week of hands-on training to members of the CFMB in Sinoe on the use of GPS to collect spatial data. This data will be shared with GVL and FDA to ensure that these areas are protected from oil palm development. Two GPS units were given to the Sinoe groups to enable them to continue the demarcation work.

A representative from the Bloquia and Neezonie clan groups in Grand Gedeh County approached PROSPER for assistance regarding their FDA-approved CFMA and an agreement they had signed in 2011 with a logging company. Following conversations with PROSPER staff, it became clear to the community representative that the CRL regulatory requirements to establish the CFMA had not been followed. He shared this information with the FDA and the community. The FDA subsequently sent several FDA managers to Grand Gedeh to investigate the situation. PROSPER's FDA Liaison, Koko Dennis, attended this meeting and reported back on activities to both the FDA and PROSPER which included attempts to constitute the Community Assembly and approve constitutions and by-laws (required by regulation prior to the signing of a CFMA). PROSPER shared with FDA and USAID its concerns regarding the irregularity of this process.

Activity 2.2: Strengthen capacity of FDA, EPA, and CSOs to support sustainable forest management

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

CSO partner staff increased their practical understanding of the CRL and its regulation through screening of CF applications

CFWG members trained the CRL and its regulation

CFWG members implement outreach and awareness campaigns

FDA and forest sector donors debriefed on community forestry-related activities

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period.

Key Accomplishments:

Following a resolution at a meeting of the CFWG, a committee was set up to support the Community Forestry Unit of the FDA to screen CFMA Application for consistency with the requirements of the Community Rights Law (CRL) and the CRL Regulations. Under the leadership of PROSPER's Senior Community Forestry Advisor and FDA Community Forestry Technical Manager, 23 applications were screened for compliance; none of them met the minimum requirements. In the next quarter, PROSPER will continue to support this committee to respond accordingly to the applicants and to promote awareness of the regulatory procedures.

In preparation for the national outreach campaign launch, PROSPER supported a two-day retreat organized by the CFWG. The retreat was designed to strengthen the knowledge of members of the group on the CRL and the implementing regulation of the CRL. A total of 25 representatives including regular members of the group and observers participated. The meeting was facilitated by the ODA and DCOP at the offices of the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI).

PROSPER procured four motorcycles to support the field work of the FDA Community Forestry cadre members working closely with PROSPER. The motorcycles will enable the FDA to work more effectively at the field level and to reach other communities within their districts outside of the PROSPER sites. Meanwhile, the FDA Liaison, Koko Dennis has worked closely with PROSPER staff to develop and deliver training and workshops related to community forest implementation at the field level and to promote understanding of the CRL regulatory steps within the FDA (see Activity 2.1 above).

Activity 2.3: Support development of legal framework for CF and LTPR

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Customary Land Implementation Task Force formed with active inputs and participation from PROSPER

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: Three Policy Briefs are due during the period but will be submitted in the next quarter

Key Accomplishments:

The DCOP provided a presentation to the Land Commission on the forest land tenure issues observed through PROSPER implementation with a particular emphasis on overlapping tenure claims and land conflict, along with the need to support clear and transparent implementation of the existing laws and regulations related to land. The presentation included examples of ongoing violations of the National Forestry Reform Law, Community Rights Law and related regulation; and the Mining Law and its regulation.

The DCOP attended a meeting of land stakeholders called by the Land Commission in early June to discuss ways to promote awareness about the new Land Rights Policy and to begin to address issues related to the processes needed to assist communities and government to define communities and their customary lands within the new framework. At the meeting, a committee was formed to draft a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Customary Land Implementation Task Force. The ODA attended a second meeting of the proposed Task Force on June 27th where the draft TOR was distributed for comment. PROSPER was also asked to compile a brief paper for the task force to assist communities to self-identify, form governance structures, and demarcate community lands. In addition, PROSPER was asked to organize a site visit to northern Nimba for Task Force members so that they can better understand the land tenure issues and conflicts arising from the multiple interests in the PROSPER site: mining concessions, community forests, state forests, Protected Areas, and conservation organizations.

Activity 2.4: Increase knowledge of forest ecosystems and design appropriate interventions

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Draft of Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook developed by subcontractor FFI

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: The Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook (Deliverable 13) deliverable date was extended from May 2013 to September 2013 through the approval of the First Annual Work Plan. This handbook is currently under review by PROSPER technical staff and will be submitted to USAID early in the next quarter (FY13, Q4)

Biodiversity Assessments (Deliverable 24) were re-submitted for approval during the period following feedback from USAID

Key Accomplishments:

Subcontractor FFI submitted a draft handbook for biodiversity monitoring to PROSPER for review. The finalized handbook will be submitted to USAID for approval in the next quarter. The biodiversity assessment of the new PROSPER sites was revised and resubmitted to USAID during the period. Information from the assessment is being used to develop outreach materials.

COMPONENT 3: ENHANCED COMMUNITY-BASED LIVELIHOODS DERIVED FROM SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED AND AGRICULTURE-BASED ENTERPRISES IN TARGET AREAS

Component 3 activities focused on planting of food crops on the demonstration fields of the Farmer Field Schools in Northern Nimba and Grand Bassa. Farmer Field School activities in Southern Nimba (Tappita) were halted due to concerns about environmental conditions that could not be met. All 15 farmer field schools initiated the establishment of Griffonia Nurseries as part of the PROSPER (draft) Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. The process of transformation of CPOPs and CPGs into cooperatives is still ongoing. An assessment report to ascertain the viability of rehabilitating rubber farms in the Tappita area was finalized for submission to USAID. A study was conducted in April by ASNAPP to measure the impact and effectiveness of training on sustainable harvesting methods and post-harvest handling provided to Griffonia collectors. The Ethnobotanical Survey report was finalized by and submitted to USAID. BOTPAL collected a disappointing quantity of Griffonia for export and has paid back \$17,200 (72%) the total loan it obtained from the AGRHA-managed Griffonia Revolving Fund. Over 90% of the NTFP (Griffonia) collectors surveyed in Northern Nimba PROSPER sites demonstrated a clear level of understanding on the importance of good collection practices (GCP).

ACTIVITY 3.1: Assist communities, selected resource user groups within communities, and other appropriate public and private stakeholders to develop enterprises based on the sustainable use of natural resources and payments for ecosystem services

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Training sessions organized and Griffonia nurseries organized in 15 Farmer Field Schools

Technical and organizational assistance provided to CPOPs and CPGs to improve management of their processing operations

Ethnobotanical survey report finalized

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: Sector survey and analyses on NTFPs as part of the forestry value chain, were submitted to USAID. (Due FY13, Q1: Delivered FY13 Q3). The analyses for selected agricultural value chains was due in the first quarter (FY13, Q1) but submission to USAID delayed (Deliverable 2) until next quarter.

Key Accomplishments:

Tree Crop Activities:

The findings of the Rubber Assessment reported by AgroStewards, conducted in January and February in the Tappita area, was submitted to USAID in June. The report has provided important background information on the state of rubber smallholders in the Tappita area and has provided insights concerning strategies for supporting the re-development of smallholder rubber farms. These have been incorporated into PROSPER's proposed revised Scope of Work. An area-specific survey for the Grand Bassa PROSPER sites is proposed for Q4. The outcome of the studies will be discussed with the PROSPER COR for a possible pilot activity in FY 2013-2014.

NTFP Activities:

After a lengthy series of exchanges, debates, and revisions, the report on the ethno-botanical survey and value chain analysis was submitted to USAID. The report recommends the development of five NTFPS with Griffonia as the major candidate. ASNAPP conducted an impact assessment of best practices training related to Griffonia collection and handling. A final report was submitted in May. The report shows that the good collection practices (GCPs), which are focused on sustainable harvesting methods, were well understood by the collectors interviewed for the survey (over 90%). This finding indicates that the training which was conducted over three years now in successive projects (LRFCP, LFSP and PROSPER) has been effective. The survey also showed that most collectors tend to return every year to the same sites for collection of Griffonia.

The survey also exposed the rather weak sense of organizational purpose and vision of BOTPAL members who had difficulties explaining what BOTPAL stood for and how it would independently move forward, develop

and grow. A realistic vision and strategy for this evolution is lacking. PROSPER will have ASNAPP conduct a follow-up study in Q4 to assist BOTPAL members to identify measures they can take to re-define and reshape the organization to play a major role in mobilizing NTFP collections. BOTPAL's performance in the 2012-2013 Griffonia collection season was disappointing. Only 2,000 kilos of Griffonia were collected and sold for a total value of \$8,600. As of May 31, 2013, BOTPAL had paid back \$17,200 of the \$24,000 loan it received from AGRHA to finance the purchase of Griffonia. As of June 1, BOTPAL is delinquent on its loan. Though BOTPAL has verbally assured PROSPER that it will reimburse the totality of the loan, to date BOTPAL has not received any communication from AGRHA on the delinquency status of its loan and has not been able to contact AGRHA's executive director to discuss the matter.

Following LFSP's *laissez-faire* approach – which had resulted in the sale 5,000 kilo Griffonia in the 2011-2012 campaign – PROSPER adopted a similar approach for the 2012-2013 collection season. The problems which had led to a low final sales price had been addressed; drying racks and tarpaulins were provided to BOTPAL to dry Griffonia to the required moisture level of 10% or less; additional moisture meters were made available together with ample jute bags and wooden pallets to store the Griffonia according to proper post-harvest procedures and practices. With financing made available from AGRHA's revolving fund in December 2012, BOTPAL was expected to collect at least 12 Mt of Griffonia. Low initial price offerings (\$2.30/kilo) by prospective buyers (communicated to BOTPAL by ASNAPP in mid-January 2013) discouraged BOTPAL from collecting large amounts of Griffonia. BOTPAL had already begun paying collectors \$1.50-\$2.00/kilo. Higher Griffonia mobilization costs in new PROSPER work areas such as Tappita and District 4 (Buchanan) cast serious doubt on the prospect of breaking even on operations there. Though in February/March the price offers for Griffonia rose quickly to \$4.30/kilo (communicated by ASNAPP), BOTPAL decided to sell its small well-dried stock to a buyer from Ivory Coast who collected the Griffonia in Kamplay.

In June BOTPAL delivered the last tracking sheets from the 2012-2013 Griffonia collection season. The information had to be transferred from the agents' notebooks onto PROSPER's standard tracking sheets. The processing of the information on the tracking sheets is being done by the PROSPER M&E unit. The information will be used to select the areas for the Griffonia monitoring plots, which will be established in August.

Griffonia nurseries have been integrated into all FFS in northern Nimba and Buchanan, and have been established in Tappita communities as well where they will be managed by a caretaker. The majority of Griffonia seedlings are being cultivated in North Nimba where most of the BOTPAL-collected Griffonia originated. Griffonia nurseries conform to the measures described in the Mitigation Plan for NTFPs.

Agricultural Activities:

The transformation process from group to cooperative for the Cassava Processing Groups (CPGs) and Commercial Palm Oil Producers (CPOPs) is well underway. Ten out of fifteen groups have signed the transition MoU with the respective Community Forestry Management Boards (CFMBs) in Northern Nimba. Following the signing of the MoUs, zinc sheets were provided by PROSPER to roof the new buildings for the newly-formed groups. Plastering of the walls will follow the completion of the roofs. The labor to construct the buildings is provided by the group members.

The Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) in Paynesville was consulted to determine the necessary steps to establish and register a cooperative in Liberia. PROSPER will lead and guide this transition process in Northern Nimba with the six existing CPOP and CPG organizations and will establish an additional eight co-ops following the steps outlined by the CDA.

ACTIVITY: 3.2 Reduce threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Farmer Field School (FFS) sessions continued in Northern Nimba and Buchanan communities

Two Extension Pamphlets developed and made available to the agricultural stakeholders

No contract deliverables due during the quarter

Key Accomplishments:

During the quarter, PROSPER provided new tools to all FFS in Northern Nimba and Buchanan where the FFS will continue through November of this year. Most of the PROSPER FFS (nine operating out of the Sanniquellie Office and two out of Buchanan) have completed planting of improved varieties of cassava (Bassa Girl and Carica variety) – the same varieties that are promoted by FED. These are being planted on mounds or ridges to demonstrate good agricultural practices (GAP) and should result in higher tuber yields. The plant material of these improved varieties will be disseminated among the FFS members to grow on their own fields where they should boost production. All these varieties are resistant to the cassava mosaic virus which has been causing a widespread decline in cassava tuber yields in the last decade.

Cowpeas, groundnuts and plantain suckers were planted following the GAP recommendations. In two FFS the implementation of the demonstration fields was delayed (Dulay and Zualay) when land offered by local farmers was withdrawn, requiring last-minute changes of demo plot locations

Discussions were held between

PROSPER and FED concerning the possible expansion of FED's

agricultural assistance to additional communities, notably around the Big Gio Forest in the Tappita District, to aid in dampening pressure on the forest from shifting cultivation. The two programs exchanged information on their respective target communities. Planning of the expansion of FED activities in PROSPER's zones of intervention will be finalized in Q4 so that this can be incorporated into FED's work plan for FY 2013-2014.

The Component 3 team has prepared two extension pamphlets; the illustrations are undergoing final revisions by a local artist. The pamphlets cover technical aspects of compost and liquid manure development. They will be presented and distributed to stakeholders in a presentation by PROSPER at the July meeting of the Agricultural Coordination Committee (ACC) at the Ministry of Agriculture in Monrovia. The presentation will emphasize the relationship between the livelihood/agriculture activities and maintaining biodiversity in the Upper Guinea forest. The pamphlets will be part of the presentation and a small quantity will be made available to those interested in printed and digital (CD) form.



Figure 3: Farmer Field School in northern Nimba

ACTIVITY: 3.3 Work with stakeholders to provide feedback/share lessons learned in best practices, workable approaches, and recommended actions to improve the effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Participated in Agriculture Coordination Committee Meetings on a monthly basis

No contract deliverables due during the quarter

Key Accomplishments:

In April and May PROSPER participated in meetings of the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC), chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture. This forum provides useful and interesting insights and contacts with other projects and organizations that are active in the field of agriculture development. The L/LEDA will present an overview of the PROSPER livelihood activities in the context of biodiversity conservation, lessons learned and best practices from PROSPER's experiences at the July ACC meeting in the next quarter.

A series of consultations was conducted with various actors in the tree crop sector to discuss various possibilities for PROSPER to engage and redirect its efforts with greater emphasis on tree crop cultivation, mainly through rehabilitation of old farms. Both the SHOPS (USAID Winrock/ACDIVOCA) and LIFE II (USDA/ACDIVOCA) projects have established productive private-owned nurseries in or near PROSPER sites which provide opportunities for cross-project collaboration and experiential learning. Their proximity to the PROSPER sites and link with ACDI/VOCA could facilitate the expansion of cocoa and palm oil development and production.

ACTIVITY: 3.4 Establish test plots to determine baseline greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) in a representative sample of land use areas under a variety of management regimes and monitor their changes the production cycle

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

No results to report for the quarter

No contract deliverables due during the quarter

No activities to report on during this quarter.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PROSPER STAFF LIST

Full-time Staff: Monrovia

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
Technical					
1	Reid	Stephen	Chief of Party		14 May 2012
2	Litz	Vaneska	Deputy COP/Leader, Community Forestry/Land Tenure and Property Rights		01 June 2012
3	Cole	Eugene	Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities		21 Jan 2013
4	Jackson	Nobeh	Communications and Outreach Advisor		01 June 2012
5	Johnson	T. Doe	Education Advisor	NAEAL	18 June 2012
6	Koffa	Samuel	Senior Community Forestry Advisor		12 July 2012
7	Kweme	Dominic	Organizational Development Advisor	CJPS	01 June 2012
8	de Waard	Peter	Leader, Livelihoods & Enterprise Development Activities	ACDI/VOCA	18 June 2012
9	Bedell	Hodo	Livelihoods Advisor	ACDI/VOCA	01 June 2012
10	Nyepan	Josephus	Livelihoods Program Officer	AGRHA	01 June 2012
11	Miller	Esthella	Gender Integration Officer		01 June 2012
12	Vangehn	Darlington	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist		01 June 2012
13	Roberts	Edward	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		
Financial and Administrative					
14	Tarr	Vera	Office Manager		01 June 2012
15	Williams	Joshua	Finance Officer		01 June 2012
16	Mulbah	Henry	Assistant Finance Officer		01 June 2012
17	Wheigar	Sando	Procurement/Contracts Officer		02 July 2012
18	Bestman	Arthur	Administrative Operations Officer		17 Dec 2012

Support Staff					
19	Saylee	Moses	Caretaker		01 June 2012
20	Johnson	Frederick	Head Driver		01 June 2012
21	Dukuly	Abraham	Driver		01 June 2012
22	Habah	John	Driver		01 June 2012
23	Weltee	Othello	Driver		08 Oct 2012
24	Boykai	Joel	Driver		01 June 2012

Full-time Tetra Tech Staff: Sanniuellie Field Office (northern Nimba County)

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Vesselee	Martin	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		01 June 2012
2	Ville	James	Field Office Administrator		28 August 2012
3	Kollie	Henry	Driver		02 Jan 2013

Full-time Tetra Tech Staff: Tappita Field Office (southern Nimba County)

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Biah	Nuah	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		08 Oct 2012
2	Kikeh	Joseph	Field Office Administrator		19 Nov 2012
3	Gant	Garretson	Driver		05 Nov 2012

Full-time Tetra Tech Staff: Buchanan Field Office (Grand Bassa County)

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Gibson	Eugene	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		20 May 2013
2	Dugbeh	Sam	Field Office Administrator		03 Dec 2012
3	Manobah	Folley	Driver		16 Oct 2012

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

	Title	Date Submitted (2013)	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Notes
1	Monthly Progress Report, March 2013	April 11	RR-4	
2	Third Quarterly Report (Jan-Mar 2013)	April 30	RR-5	
3	Quarterly Financial Report (Q2 FY 2013)	May 1	RR-6	
4	Ethno-botanical Survey and Value Chain Study	May 5	D-2	
5	STTA Report: Geospatial Support Mission to the PROSPER Project – community mapping and boundary delineation, by Nick Thomas	May 22	RR-12	
6	Monthly Progress Report, April 2013	May 30	RR-4	
7	Monthly Progress Report, May 2013	June 6	RR-4	
8	Biodiversity Assessment Report	June 27	D-24	

APPENDIX 3 - PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE - QUARTER 3, FY13

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 13 Target	Q1-Q2 Actual	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 13 % Actual vs Target
Intermediate Result 1: Increased educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance									
1.1 Number of institutions with increased capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Sub Intermediate Result 1.1: Improved capacity of MOE to deliver formal and non-formal primary and adult education curricula on natural resource management and governance									
1.1.1: Percentage of MOE primary school students in targeted areas receiving education on environment and natural resources based on strengthened curriculum – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
1.1.2: Percentage of MOE adult literacy centers in targeted areas using the environmental curriculum materials in their instruction – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Sub Intermediate Result 1.2: Improved capacity of CSOs to design and conduct outreach campaigns to increase public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues									
1.2.1: Number of CSO members involved in the design and conduct of outreach campaign activities that incorporate best practices – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	2012	0	15	15	0	0	0%	100%
Sub Intermediate Result 1.3: Improved capacity of FTI to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum									
1.3.1: Number of technical/vocational students trained in revised FTI curriculum incorporating community forestry elements – <i>Custom /Output</i>	#	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
1.3.2: Number of individuals supported by program to conduct applied research at one or more of the program’s pilot sites – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Sub Intermediate Result 1.4: Improved capacity of civil society and community organizations to contribute to NRM, land and environmental policy development									
1.4.1: Number of policy briefings and presentations made to national leadership by forestry stakeholders regarding LTPR and forest resource protection and management – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	6	2	2	3	150%	85%

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 13 Target	Q1-Q2 Actual	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 13 % Actual vs Target
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – Custom/Output	#	0	0	6	1	2	5	250%	100%
Sub Intermediate Result: 1.5 : Increased capacity of Community Forestry Development Committees to develop effective, environmentally-sound development programs to use Forest Management Committee social agreement funds									
1.5.1: Number of community projects approved and funded by CFDC and NBST using the modified criteria to screen applications for environmental impacts – Custom/Outcome	#	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Intermediate Result 2: Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities									
2.1: Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance – FACTS/Outcome	#	0	0	13.5 K	Annual target	Annual target	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management									
2.1.1: Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – FACTS/Outcome	#	0	0	24 K	-	-	-	-	0%
2.1.2: Number of community members trained in the management of their community forestry areas (e.g., biomonitoring, permitting) – Custom/Output	#	0	0	100	69	5	31	620%	100%
2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – Custom/Outcome	#	0	0	15	0	5	5	100%	33%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.2: Strengthened capacity of FDA, EPA and CSOs to support sustainable forest management									
2.2.1: Number of FDA, EPA, and partner CSO staff trained in the practical steps involved in developing community forestry management bodies and plans incorporating conservation, community, and commercial values – Custom/Output	#	0	0	25	20	3	5	167%	100%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.3: : Legal framework for community forestry and LTPR improved and simplified on the basis of recommendations from stakeholder consultations									
2.3.1: Number of policies, laws, agreements, or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance – Custom/Outcome	#	0	0	2	2	-	-	-	100%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.4: Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs									

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 13 Target	Q1-Q2 Actual	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 13 % Actual vs Target
2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	5	0	2	0	0%	0%
Intermediate Result 3: Improved community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest and agricultural-based enterprises in targeted communities areas									
3.1: Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation activities as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	620	0	200	493 ¹	247%	79.5%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.1: Increased number of sustainable agro/forest - based enterprises									
3.1.1: Number of new agribusiness/forestry enterprises formed to support program-assisted value chains – <i>Custom / Outcome</i>	#	0	0	2	0	2	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.2: Reduced threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities									
3.2.1: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training – <i>FACTS/Output</i>	#	0	0	275	200	50	50	100%	91%
3.2.2: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	80	0	60	60	100%	75%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.3: Increased information available to stakeholders concerning best practices, to improve effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises.									
3.3.1: Number of extension publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordinating Committee and other national and local fora to interested stakeholders -- <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	2	0	1	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.4: Improved data on greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) present in forest areas under different management regimes									
3.4.1: Number of test plots generating data on greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) to inform decision-makers regarding appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies to minimize climate change – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0

¹ In the previous quarter, it was reported that zero people had received increased benefits because the data had not yet been collected. This quarterly report was finalized by the USAID COR and data entered into LMEP's PIDS system before this number could be updated. Subsequently, data was gathered from the field and 200 people were found to have increased economic benefit. However, this update was not entered into the PIDS system because it had been closed for revision following the COR approval of the Quarterly Report. In order to capture this number, we are including the 200 from the previous quarter in this report in order to update the PIDS system.

APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER – APRIL TO JUNE 2013

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
1	April 11-12, 2013	CFWG reconnaissance visit for the Outreach Campaign launch	Meet with the (Makento) group to explain outreach campaign objectives and solicit their participation and support	Sanniquellie	N/A	2	5	26	12	43
2	April 16-23, 2013	Settlement Mapping Exercise	Provide CFMB with reliable information regarding number of settlements in the Gba forest, their location, etc.	Sanniquellie	Gba	8	0	14	1	15
3	April 16-18, 2013	Conflict Management and Leadership Training	To build skills and knowledge of community members to effectively mitigate conflict at the community level	Sanniquellie	Gba	3	11	12	15	38
4	May 6, 2013	ENNR Stakeholder Meeting	Consultative meeting involving Gba, Sehyi and Zor communities regarding sustainable management of the ENNR	Zualay	Zor	1	12	29	11	52
5	May 6-8, 2013	Conflict Management and Leadership Training	To build skills and knowledge of community members to effectively mitigate conflict at the community level	Yarweh	Barcoline	3	9	20	5	34
6	May 8, 2013	Community Forest Demarcation Training	To familiarize community members with requirements and procedures for demarcating proposed Community Forest area per the Community Rights Law (Chap. 2, Section 8)	Marley	Boe and Quilla District	1	2	45	0	47
7	May 9, 2013			Beatuo	Beatuo Clan	1	0	39	0	39
8	May 10, 2013			Graie	Boe and Quilla District	1	5	36	0	41
9	May 11, 2013			Yreah	Gblor Clan	1	4	35	0	39
10	May 13, 2013			Gboutuo	Gblor Clan	1	2	33	0	35
11	May 14, 2013			Bah	Kparblee District	1	1	33	0	34
12	May 15, 2013			Sehyie	Sehzueplay Clan	1	8	25	0	33
13	May 16, 2013			Yeteepa	Boe and Quilla District	1	10	29	0	39

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
14	May 9-11, 2013	Conflict Management and Leadership Training	To build skills and knowledge of community members to effectively mitigate conflict at the community level	Keiyah	District # 4	3	11	23	7	41
15	May 13, 2013	Formation / Election of CPG Board members	Prepare CPGs to transform management structure and procedures into cooperative	Gbapa	Gba	1	6	4	2	12
16	May 13, 2013			Zolowee	Gba	1	5	0	2	7
17	May 13, 2013			Markinto	Gba	1	0	5	2	7
18	May 14, 2013			Sehyi-Geh	Gba	1	2	3	2	7
19	May 14, 2013			Suakazue	Gba	1	1	4	2	7
20	May 15, 2013			Zorgowee	Zor	1	0	5	2	7
21	May 15, 2013			Kialay	Zor	1	1	4	2	7
22	May 15, 2013			Zor Lepula	Zor	1	2	3	2	7
23	May 16, 2013			Zor Ganaglay	Zor	1	0	5	2	7
24	May 16, 2013			Zualay	Zor	1	1	4	2	7
25	May 16, 2013			Kpolay	Zor	1	2	3	2	7
26	May 19-20, 2013	Gba and Sehyi Communities Joint Stakeholders Meeting	To reach final consensus on the status of famers and settlers in the Gba community forest	Gbapa	Gba	2	19	49	7	75
27	May 20-22, 2013	Leadership Training on Conflict Management	To build skills and knowledge of community members to effectively mitigate conflict at the community level	Kwipea	Gblor	3	10	29	8	47
28	May 23-25, 2013			Zuolay	Sehzueplay	3	11	21	2	34
29	May 27-29, 2013			Zodru	Beatuo	3	8	27	2	37
30	May 24, 2013	1 st Annual Outreach Campaign Launching Ceremony	Broaden awareness and understanding of the Community Rights Law and make it accessible to local/forest dependent communities in PROSPER sites in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties.	Tappita	N/A	1	31	94	0	125
31	May 29, 2013			Sanniquellie	N/A	1	36	152	0	188
32	June 8, 2013			Buchanan	N/A	1	37	162	0	199
33	May 28, 2013			Barcoline	Barcoline Community	1	4	26	0	30
34	May 29, 2013			Diah – Play		1	3	27	0	30
35	May 30, 2013			Bold Dollar	Kpogblen Clan	1	8	22	0	30
36	May 31, 2013			Benzohn		1	5	25	0	30

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
37	June 1, 2013			Zuatu	Boe and Quilla District	3	10	28	2	40
38	June 1, 2013			Korjuah	Kpogblen Clan	1	7	23	0	30
39	June 4, 2013			Sehyikempa	Sehyi	1	7	21	0	28
40	June 5, 2013			Sehyigeh		1	6	26	0	32
41	June 6, 2013			Zayisonnoh		1	4	23	0	27
42	June 17-18, 2013			Pre-testing of environmental lesson plan	Pre-testing of environmental lesson plan developed by MOE for better understandability by teachers in PROSPER targeted communities	Tappita City	Tappita	2	2	5
43	June 19-21, 2013	Sanniquellie	Sanniquellie			2	4	6	22	28
44	June 27, 2013	Buchanan	Buchanan			2	6	8	31	39
45	June 18, 2013	Rollout (village-to-village outreach) of the 1 st Annual Outreach Campaign	To familiarize community members with requirements and procedures for demarcating proposed Community Forest area per the Community Rights Law (Chap. 2, Section 8	Doeyelay	Gblor-Gbear	1			The number of community participants attending the roll-out events varied from 100 persons to as many as 500, with an estimated average attendance of 150.	
46	June 19, 2013			Gblor Dialah	Gblor-Gbear	1				
47	June 20, 2013			Zeongehn	Sehzueplay	1				
48	June 21, 2013			Zuolay	Sehzueplay	1				
49	June 22, 2013			Graie	Sehzueplay	1				
50	June 23, 2013			Old Yourpea	Kparblee District	1				
51	June 24, 2013			Beatuo	Kparblee District	1				
52	June 25, 2013			Bewallay	Kparblee District	1				
53	June 26, 2016			Kparblee	Kparblee District	1				
54	June 24, 2013			Rollout (village-to-village outreach) of the 1 st Annual Outreach Campaign	To familiarize community members with requirements and procedures for demarcating proposed Community Forest area per the Community Rights Law (Chap. 2, Section 8	Dulay	Zor	1		
55	June 25, 2013	Lepula	Zor			1				
56	June 26, 2013	Gbapa	Gba			1				
57	June 27, 2013	Sopea	Gba			1				
58	June 28, 2013	Sehyi – Geh	Gba			1				
59	June 29, 2013	Lugbeyee	Gba			1				

The number of community participants attending the roll-out events varied from 100 persons to as many as 500, with an estimated average attendance of 150.

The estimated *total* attendance was, therefore, **2,250** persons.

6-8 PROSPER and subcontractor staff took part in each event.

APPENDIX 5: SUCCESS STORIES



SNAPSHOT

Community Forestry provides incentive for peace

Longstanding dispute resolved paving the way for community forestry



Sketch mapping is used to help Peace Committee members visualize land conflict areas and facilitate discussions.

"If there is confusion over boundary between us, we will miss the opportunity for community forestry and the government will declare the disputed land as government property"

-John Dadee, Chief Clan Elder

Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

The Gayea and Gblor clans are traditional hunting and gathering societies occupying areas of southern Nimba County – an area whose rich timber resources have been overexploited in past decades with very little benefit trickling down to local communities. Speaking different languages (Krahn and Gio respectively) and holding different customs, the two clans have a long history of enmity and distrust that is characterized by boundary disputes, kidnappings and occasional bouts of violence.

The border between the two clans is a continuing source of discord and the Government of Liberia has sought to intervene in this dispute since 1978 when the County Superintendent declared the Yeana Creek as the official boundary between the two communities. Unfortunately, the geographic coordinates of the creek were not surveyed at that time, and the two clans identified different creeks as the Yeana. This disagreement and disregard for government mandated solutions to the boundary dispute are typical of both communities' reactions to outsider attempts at intervention and mediation. Over the years, numerous attempts by County officials and NGOs with conflict management mandates have proved fruitless and the communities remain at loggerheads over the actual location of the boundary.

In September 2012, the PROSPER program began working with both communities to support the development of community forestry. Initial outreach involved education about the Community Rights Law: a law that recognizes customary forest use and management rights. As a result of this intervention, local leaders began to view community forestry as a possible means of gaining control over their resources in order to capture benefits for their own communities. However, these same leaders also came to recognize that the boundary dispute with their neighbors would hinder attempts to secure their rights to these resources. Accordingly, both the Gayea and Gblor communities approached PROSPER with a request to mediate the dispute between the two communities which at that time had escalated to a point where County government had issued a stay order forbidding either community from using the disputed land until the conflict could be resolved.

PROSPER agreed to facilitate meetings with and between the two communities and through several mediated sessions, the communities were able to agree on a division of the disputed land and to jointly demarcate a common boundary. This decision was recorded by county officials and the boundary demarcation will be conducted in late 2013. When asked why this boundary decision will be respected by the two clan groups when other similar decisions have been disregarded, members of both communities stated unequivocally that they did not want to lose the opportunity to secure their forest rights and recognized that the on-going dispute risked government takeover of their traditional land.



SNAPSHOT

Peace Committees at Work

Communities pave way to peace and community forestry



Members of the Peace Committee hear from different sides of the conflict

"As the result of PROSPER training in our community, we the peace committee members now have the needed skills to solve land conflict issue in our community."

-Robert Manna, Town Chairman

Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

The Keiyah and Baye Towns are located in District 4 in a remote area of Grand Bassa in central Liberia. Although they speak a common language and hold many of the same customs, the two towns have a history of bitterness and distrust arising from their distinct ethnic backgrounds and cultural practices. These differences manifest themselves in on-going boundary disputes between the two towns.

The most recent boundary dispute emerged in 2008 when the Keiyah town leadership, responding to increasing pressure for land, demanded a tribute payment to the village of one 50 pound bag of rice. Rice is cultivated in this area using rudimentary tools and without the benefit of animal traction, fertilizer inputs or insecticides. It is a labor intensive activity that requires the hard work of extended family members, and in most cases, every bag of rice cultivated in this manner is used for subsistence purposes. The Baye Town residents strongly rejected this payment arguing that as brothers and sisters, they should share the land as their ancestors had done without demanding tribute. Refusal on the part of the Baye Town residents to pay this tribute led Keiyah Town leaders to forbid any farming in the disputed area.

In September 2012, the PROSPER program began working with both towns to promote the development of community forestry. Initial engagement involved raising awareness around the steps required to gain official community forestry status under the Government of Liberia law in order to secure their customary rights over the forest. Through this process, local leaders began to view community forestry as a possible means of gaining better control and access over their resources in order to capture benefits for their own community. However, these same leaders also recognized that the boundary dispute with their neighbors could hinder attempts to secure their rights to these resources. Accordingly, both the Keiyah and Baye towns approached PROSPER with a request to mediate the dispute between the two towns.

PROSPER agreed to facilitate meetings with and between the two towns through several mediated sessions. Prior to this, however, PROSPER held several workshops in conflict management that were facilitated by the PROSPER subcontractor, Center for Justice and Peace Studies. The workshop aimed to increase participants understanding of the sources of conflict, the potential tools to manage conflict, and to identify potential arbitrators. As part of the workshops, PROSPER assisted the communities to establish Peace Committees whose members will work with the Forestry Development Authority to resolve any boundary disputes associated with demarcating the community forest. In addition, the Peace Committees were urged to take the lead in managing other conflicts within the community. As a first challenge, the Peace Committee in District 4 worked with PROSPER and local leaders to mediate the dispute between the Baye and Keiyah Town. After several meetings, the Keiyah Town leaders dropped their requirement for rice payment and agreed permit farming to continue in the disputed area. The Chaplain of the Peace Committee, Ms. Betty Papay stated "We were trained in solving land conflict in our community forest area. We were successfully able to our applied skills, and today, the two towns have agreed to live in peace"

U.S. Agency for International Development
Liberia Mission
502 Benson Street
Monrovia, Liberia